

## COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Wanamingo

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

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Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture      ☐ Residential      ☐ Conservation Easement  
☐ Commercial      ☐ Industrial      ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Property location: Sec. 27 Holden Township Goodhue County.  
The south west area of Holden township has some of the best farmland in Goodhue County. Small farmers like myself have all we can do to hold onto the small acreages (80-160+) that we have to raise enough feed for our dairy herds. I am concerned about stray voltage, etc on the 2 sites in Sections 31+27 where our family has dairy herds.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

This area has always been an area of small family farms - some of which have been in the family since the 1850's. People have worked hard to maintain this "neighborhood" feeling and the land that they farm. As township officials we consider very carefully each land use sitting that will affect the people living in the area. If you were to place this line mid-section, as proposed, you would come quite close to a number of farm sites and feed lots. Because this land is so extensively row crops, the fence lines are the only areas of wildlife habitat that remain - I would hate to see the little bit we have left destroyed for a power line. The established Hwy 52 corridor seems like a much better route for this project.

#### L-008-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to stray voltage will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

#### L-008-002

Your letter/comment card has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process along with potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

L-008-003

*From the information that I have, I'm not sure there is a need for this project - through conservation of energy and alternative power sources this project may not be necessary.*

L-008-004

*I find the format of your scoping meetings very difficult to "wade" through - I felt like I was walking through a maze with no way out - We really need some formal presentation of information - with a question and answer period. I realize that could go on into the night, but we would be happy with a time limit. Please consider a change.*

L-008-005

*Also more information to affected property owners would be good - throwing out all these possible routes confuses people.*

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Barbara St John

Representing (Optional): Holden Township

Mailing Address: 44866 40<sup>th</sup> Ave.

City: Kenyon

State: MN

Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-789-5553

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

L-008-003

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

L-008-004

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com).

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

L-008-005

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response L-008-004.